

GIFFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting at 7.30pm on Monday 14th June 2010 in the Todrick Room of the Gifford Village Hall

MINUTES

1. Welcome and note of those present: John O'Connor, (JOC), Chair, Julian Tennent, (JT), Secretary, Elizabeth Whiteford, (EW), Treasurer, Andrew Gilmour, (AG), Alastair McClung, (AMcC), Margaret Maslowski, (MMas), Margaret McDougall, (MMcD), Shona Thomas, (ST). ELC Cllr Sheena Richardson, and two members of the public.
2. Apologies: JS. ELC Cllrs L.Broun-Lindsay, T.Trotter, Police Representatives.
3. Minutes of the meeting of 10th May, 2010: on p.3, Item 13(v) it should have been noted that MMcD “ was contacted by Alistair Watt”, rather than “ by a gentleman”...: EW noted that, in the minutes as a whole, there was no mention of the fact that AMcC had contacted the ELC about the wall to the Bleachfield, and had been told (by a Mr/Ms Fox) that the ELC had no responsibility for its maintenance. (Such reference belonging probably under Item 10). Gordon Hall, of the Public, regarding p.2, Item 2, Decision said, it should say “up to three Saturdays”, rather than “for three Saturdays”. It was then agreed to delete the phrase “with a maximum of three consecutive Saturdays”.
Agreed: on proposal of MMcD, seconded by EW, to approve the minutes, with these amendments.
4. Matters arising: None.
5. Police: (No PC's were present), EW noted, with the authority of Section 243(5) of the Highway Code, that everywhere in Gifford drivers are parking too close to intersections, (the distance should be 10 meters). Cllr Sheena Richardson suggested the painting of double yellow lines, but some questioned this for appearance. The discussion that followed focused largely on the tight turning on Walden Terrace (which causes big vehicles to go over the kerb) and the need for more parking spaces, where there are now only six. A further worry was the parking of eg Coop delivery lorries, double parking right at the intersection in front of the Church.
Agreed: ELC Cllr Richardson to raise the issue with ELC Transportation and to report back their advice.
6. Gifford-on-Line Website: It was intended that minutes be displayed on this, but despite JOC's contacts with Mike Gower, it had not yet happened. Mike Gower had been busy, but promises “this week”.
Agreed: JOC to follow up after 2 weeks.
7. Correspondence: (i) a 30 pp document on Strategic Planning for the Forth Region had been received and AG had kindly studied and written a one page Digest. There is until end August to comment with opportunity to visit an exhibition in the Town House, Haddington, before then.
(ii) a 30pp plus long document had come from ELC about Licensing. *Agreed:* EW to study and report back to the CC.
Generally it was felt that the originating authorities should either give CC's

more time, or provide an accessible summary when inviting comments. At least 6 weeks notice is necessary, as we and most other Community Councils meet at most only once per month.

8. Planning: AG's Report was tabled (copied at the end), dealing with three applications
 - (i) Mr Ian Robertson, -- Wind Turbine – at Newlands
- a turbine has been installed here for a long time. It could be that this application is to substitute a rather larger one.
Agreed: not to challenge this application.
 - (ii) Mr and Mrs R. Sykes -- Replacement windows, roof windows and doors – 7 Tweeddale Crescent, Gifford. An amendment to earlier application.
Agreed: to take no action
 - (iii) Mr David Lowe – Extension to house – Woodside, Tweeddale Avenue, Gifford.
This was felt to be a poorly designed extension to a house already not well designed.
Agreed: AG to write expressing the specific concerns.
See also 7. Correspondence – above—AG's Digest of the extensive Strategic Planning document – to be perused by members with a view to sending comments in August.
JOC noted that the group of 3 turbines at Townhead had now been approved by ELC, -- and the issue of effect on the landscape seemed not to have been considered. He now felt that the view from the Haddington Rd would be affected.
- 9 East Lothian Public Transport Review. Question of joint meeting with other CC's. JOC had circulated a letter written by Humbie, Bolton and Saltoun CC, and suggested a joint meeting. They seem to be proposing a "demand-responsive" service. A bus would be sent along if enough people jointly called in to request one at a particular time. A discussion followed. It was contended by Cllr Richardson that the service for Gifford was not bad, -- at least compared to Humbie. However, it was noted that the service was little use for eg young people hoping to start jobs in Edinburgh. One speaker noted that the train service to N. Berwick had been poorly used but is now very well used following re-time-tabling.
Agreed: JOC to write to Humbie etc CC expressing interest and support (but not as yet a joint meeting).
10. Reports including Yester Estate: the matter of the Chairman's recent letter to Mr Francis Menotti caused discussion. Some felt that parts were hostile in tone to no clear purpose and might prejudice possible future contacts with the landowner. Others felt the sharp tone was appropriate. Apart from the matter of care of the lime trees, there was some concern about the state and safety of the 1.5 m wall that separates Mr Menotti's land from the Sportsfield. Gordon Hall thought that an appropriate Health and Safety inspection should be requested at once, in view of the coming Gala.
Agreed: JOC to telephone the next morning to ELC or, if necessary, the H&S's office itself.
11. Potholes and road repairs: JOC had sent an email to Transportation's Peter

Forsyth specifying pothole repairs etc needed, including a potentially dangerous pothole at the bridge on Station Road.

In addition walls in various parts, eg., in Edinburgh Rd, were in a bad condition.

Agreed: JOC, MMas and MMcD to inspect walls around the village on Thursday, 17th June to determine where action was needed.

12. Ongoing items not already covered:

Tennis court proposal: EW and AMcC reported that the Golf Club had not Given a definite reply about making land available, but it seemed they were not positive about it.

Playpark improvement: AMcC said he is in touch with Liz Stewart and a contractor about this and there would be more contact in August. Mr Hamish Henderson is to hold an event at the Tweeddale Arms to raise money for playpark improvement.

Relating to the playpark at Walden Place, MMcD noted that the bench (removed during earlier works by ELC) – had still not been replaced. Child carers can only sit at some distance from the play area.

Menotti Centenary: JOC said JS is contacting the Wylies, who, as prominent musicians, might be interested and perhaps give local representation. JOC had also been in touch with Tom Shearer of ELC. It was thought ELC could give little if any financial support to the celebrations.

13. AOB:

- Plaque on wall in Main Street by Hogg's Newsagent: JOC would write to ELC asking that it be restored and preserved. It was felt to be much more informative than the dumbed-down information board near the Pound.
- People who have done special work for our community: AG drew attention to Michael Purves of Yester School, and Beth Morrison of Kidlaw. *Agreed:* that letters of appreciation be sent to them as recognition of their services.
- Laburnum Tree and possible hazard: ST noted she had contacted ELC about a Laburnum tree in a resident's garden, which could be a hazard, but had so far had no reply.
- Possible new member of CC: MMas said she had contacted Samantha Swan, but owing to personal factors, she had had to decline.

14. Date of next meeting: Monday, 9th August, at 7.30

Note:

Beth Morrison had a big role in organising notable events for the huge Yester Kirk restoration fund.

Michael Purves, at Yester Primary School, led "Schoolovision" (loosely based on the Eurovision Song Contest.) Yester pupils were enabled, via the Internet, to be in touch with schools in a range of European countries. In the process of hosting the final judging Yester pupils were able to have fun while learning a lot more about Europe, and to greatly improve their skills.

Gifford Community Council Meeting 14.06.10
REPORT ON PLANNING MATTERS

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Weekly Listings of Registered Applications over the past weeks since the last meeting contained the following applications for work within the GCC area:

	Registered
13.05.10	nil
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20.05.10	nil
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27.05.10	nil
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03.06.10	1
10/00428/P	Erection of wind turbine Park Cottage, Newlands, GIFFORD EH41 4PJ for Mr Ian Robertson <i>—this is a single turbine which has been in place for some time; no action recommended.</i>
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10.06.10	2
10/00264/P	Installation of replacement windows, roof windows, & doors 7 Tweeddale Crescent, Gifford EH41 4QZ for Mr & Mrs Robert Sykes <i>—this is a further amendment to earlier planning applications, 09/00005/FUL, and 10/00156/P, adding a heat pump discreetly sited beneath a raised deck; no action recommended</i>
10/00460/P	Extension to house Woodside, Tweeddale Avenue, GIFFORD EH41 4QN for Mr David Lowe <i>—this involves demolishing a small kitchen at the front of the house and replacing it with a kitchen double its size in area; deep lead fascia, white harled wall above a dado of rubble stone walling, with two windows, one a large curved glass window, neither apparently opening. Quite out of sympathy with the existing house in style and proportion. Discuss</i>

Andrew Gilmour
10 June 2010